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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

JANUARY 1971 - No. 118

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

C. Pilloud : Protection of Journalists on Dangerous Missions in Areas of Armed Conflict ..	3
V. Segesvary : The Birth of Red Cross Solidarity - During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 (II)	8

Red Cross Relief Action in Jordan	23
-----------------------------------------	----

External Activities :

Near East - Yemen Arab Republic - Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen - ICRC mission in South-East Asia - Republic of Vietnam - Khmer Republic - Laos - Democratic Republic of the Congo - Zambia - Latin America	26
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

In Geneva :

Honorary members of the ICRC	34
A Tribute from the ICRC	37
New Year message for 1971	38

*

An Important Year for the ICRC Telecommunications Service	40
-----------------------------------------------------------------	----

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

To the Help of East Pakistan Cyclone Victims	47
Germany (Federal Republic)	48

MISCELLANEOUS

Respect of Human Rights in Time of Armed Conflict	50
---------------------------------------------------------	----

**FRENCH EDITION
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**INTERNATIONAL
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PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS ON DANGEROUS MISSIONS IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT

by C. Pilloud

Since some years, concern has been expressed on the part of various press associations on the dangers attending reporters who, in order to collect news material in the exercise of their profession, move into territories where hostilities are in progress.

On several occasions, the ICRC has been consulted by professional bodies to consider the means that might be adopted to improve the existing situation.

More recently, the attention of international public opinion was again drawn to this problem, when several newspapermen were reported missing during the outbreak of fighting in Cambodia. These events and the deaths of several of these reporters caused considerable concern.

Mr. Maurice Schumann, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, made a special reference to this question in the course of the general debate at the United Nations General Assembly that met recently, and suggested that the United Nations might take the matter up in this field. The matter was also referred to by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which was scheduled to discuss the item appearing on the agenda under "Respect of Human Rights in Time of Armed Conflict", for a draft resolution, supported by a number of delegations, had been submitted on the subject by the French delegate.

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT

After a debate in the course of which the idea of offering protection to reporters on dangerous mission had been favourably greeted by several delegations, the General Assembly finally adopted a resolution whereby, *inter alia*, it

4. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights, at its next session, to consider the possibility of preparing a draft international agreement ensuring the protection of journalists engaged on dangerous missions and providing, *inter alia*, for the creation of a universally recognized and guaranteed identification document;
5. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider this question as a matter of priority at its twenty-seventh session in order that a draft international agreement might be adopted as soon as possible by the General Assembly or by some other appropriate international body;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

It is therefore probable that the Commission on Human Rights, at its meeting in Geneva from 22 February to 26 March 1971, will examine this problem. It might not be superfluous, therefore, if we were to analyse it under its more general aspects.

The situation of journalists in time of armed conflict is familiar to International Law since the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. These contain a provision, taken up in 1929 and again in 1949 in the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, where it is stated that persons accompanying the armed forces without actually being members thereof, such as newspaper reporters or war correspondents, who have fallen into the power of the enemy, have the right to be treated as prisoners of war; they must carry an identity card, indicating their profession. Of course, the prisoner of war status recognized in these circumstances is the least that could be done, for, depending upon their nationality, the Power in whose hands they fall will either release them or will treat them more favourably. These war correspondents or newspaper reporters are accredited to the armed forces command whose movements they

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT

are reporting and their persons are exposed to the same dangers as the members of these armed forces. A similar situation exists for a special category of war correspondent which appeared during the second world war and which consisted of soldiers belonging to military units who were given information assignments. As members of the armed forces they may, of course, be attacked as such, and they, too, are exposed to all the hazards of war.

As may be seen, in the conventional international type of war, the position of journalists is relatively clearly defined. It is true that they cannot claim that they may come and go when and as they please. They must obey the orders given to them by the Military Authorities to whom they are accredited. Besides, we cannot imagine that journalists could penetrate to the very centre of a zone where fighting is taking place.

On the other hand, in less characterized armed conflicts, whether internal or international, where there is no well-defined firing line and where the enemy can suddenly appear on all sides, the situation of journalists becomes much more delicate. They may, quite involuntarily, cross from one side of the front to another, or they may suddenly find themselves in a combat zone. It is no doubt in incidents of this nature that it would be good to secure their protection. They do not demand absolute protection against dangers from weapons and they know well that those of them who go into combat areas run grave risks. On the other hand, they regard that no hostile action should be undertaken against them once their status may be recognized, and that, if they were to fall in the hands of the enemy, the duly established fact of being a journalist should be the equivalent of a safe conduct.

Such a protection can be envisaged but is not easily put into practice. Journalists finding themselves in areas where an armed conflict is in progress should have on their person an identification document establishing clearly their status of "bona fide" journalist, as pointed out in the resolution quoted above. They might also bear some characteristic sign, for example, they could wear a helmet, or some garment or arm-band of a particular colour, or, again, a clearly visible and distinctive badge.

These markings and identification should however impel journalists who desire to take advantage of them to respect certain

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT

deontological rules, still to be defined, but which should certainly include the prohibition to take part directly in hostilities and to transmit information of military value about one adversary to another. Perhaps, one should go even as far as to declare that journalists wishing to take advantage of this protection should restrict themselves to the reporting of purely factual information, without emitting any opinion as to the merits of the cause of either one party or another. For, in struggles aiming at subversion, psychological aspects and propaganda play an important role and there is a great temptation to consider as enemies those who praise or blacken one or the other opponent.

It has been observed that one of the first conditions for carrying out anything whatsoever in this domain is that the profession of journalist should be adequately organized. There are already, at national and international levels, a number of professional bodies that should study as quickly as possible what would be a code of the rights and duties of journalists in zones of armed conflict. They could also be assigned the duty of examining the possibility of setting up a register where all journalists working within a specified territory where an armed conflict is in progress would be entered. Names of these journalists could be notified through the international press media to parties to the conflict.

But the regimentation of the profession of journalist might meet with opposition from the journalists themselves. Some of them believe in fact that this constitutes in itself an infringement of the absolute liberty which they assert is necessary for the press to accomplish its mission of providing information.

It would appear from what has been said above that the projects envisaged by the journalists will not be easily implemented. Quite independently of the obstacles already mentioned, it seems that governments and public opinion do not desire that privileged categories of people should be created among the civilian population. Numerous attempts have been made to obtain a special status for other classes: civil defence service personnel, civilian medical personnel, firemen, members of the police force, etc., but, so far, without any practical results.

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT

Moreover, while numerous voices were raised in the debate which has just ended within the United Nations General Assembly in favour of the ideas underlying the draft resolution which we quoted, the delegations which voted in this sense did not however indicate how far the governments they represent were prepared to commit themselves in this domain. The discussion of the Commission on Human Rights will no doubt furnish useful pointers as to the best means to reach positive results.

Claude PILLOUD

DURING THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR OF 1870-1871

The Birth of Red Cross Solidarity ¹

by V. Segesvary

II

MATERIAL RELIEF

The term "material relief" covers the very considerable aid provided by various Societies to wounded and sick soldiers of the belligerent countries. It included medical supplies and equipment, clothing, blankets and foodstuffs.

In accordance with the principles laid down at the First Geneva Conference, "all gifts were shared between France and Prussia in the most equitable fashion, to be distributed to the wounded without distinction of nationality".² In spite of the efforts of the donor Societies to alleviate suffering, distress was of course greater on the side of the retreating armies.

BELGIUM

The Belgian Society Relief Committee's central depot was in Brussels. It sent a great quantity of supplies to ambulances and field and other hospitals throughout France, as far as Paris and Orleans, especially to the murderous battlefields around Sedan

¹ The first part of this article appeared in the December 1970 issue of *International Review*.

² Gustave Moynier — *Bulletin International des Sociétés de Secours aux militaires blessés*, Geneva.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

and Metz, and also to Germany. Its relief supplies were also distributed to the Societies of the belligerent countries through their Central Committees in Paris and Berlin. The Brussels central depot set up branches at Aix-la-Chapelle, Luxembourg and Maubeuge, in order to forward supplies more quickly. The total sum expended by the Belgian Society during the Franco-Prussian War, up to 15 July 1871 when the accounts were closed, amounted to 273,939 francs ¹. It is of interest to note that this Society, being among the first to take action, received several donations from countries not in the conflict, including 26,337 francs from Great Britain, 7,753 francs from Russia, 5,000 francs from Switzerland, 500 francs from Egypt and 100 francs from India.

LUXEMBOURG

The large volume of relief supplies forwarded by the Luxembourg Committee during the first phase of the war to the battlefields and devastated areas may be explained by two facts underlined in the Committee's report. In the first place, the inhabitants of Luxembourg being bilingual, medical personnel and other workers did not find it difficult to provide assistance to the wounded and sick of both countries at war. In the second place, relief from Luxembourg always arrived first. "Bis dat qui cito dat", runs a Latin tag, and relief from Luxembourg was in the Sarrebrück area on the day after the battle took place there. Again, at Metz, where fierce fighting had raged on August 14th, 16th and 18th, Luxembourg already sent in on the 16th two convoys, one through Thionville and the other through Sarrelouis.

The efforts of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which at the time did not have more than 200,000 inhabitants, were tremendous. The total value of relief supplies amounted to 300,000 francs ². Gifts in kind were valued at 250,000 francs, while public collections brought in the sum of 56,959 francs, utilized for the purchase of foodstuffs and material, etc., for making clothes and for covering forwarding expenses. Consignments sent to hospitals and ambu-

¹ Belgium was a member of the *Union monétaire latine* and the Belgian Franc was equivalent to the French and Swiss Francs.

² Equivalent to a Belgian franc.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

lances for distribution to the wounded and sick without distinction of nationality included parcels of rice, meat, potatoes, wine, tobacco, shirts, sheets, blankets, dressings and medicaments. A large proportion of the relief supplies from Luxembourg was sent by rail to the bridgehead of the Grand Luxembourg line at Marbehan, from where a regular road service towards Sedan was set up.

The solidarity displayed by Luxembourg was characterized by two notable features, one being the despatch from Luxembourg towns and villages of considerable quantities of bread of which there was a shortage in all the war-ravaged areas, and the other, the compassion shown to the exhausted, wounded and sick soldiers as well as to the stricken starving populations, bereft of all. Bread, food and drink and medicaments were distributed to the inhabitants, threatened with disease and famine, of Briey, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Privat, Auboué-sur-Orne, Jerusalem, Amanvilliers, etc.

NETHERLANDS

The Supreme Committee of the Dutch Society had only a very small amount of money available at the beginning of the war: 1,352 florins¹. However, at the time its action came to an end, it had spent on assistance to wounded and sick soldiers and on relief consignments the sum of 340,315 florins, of which 214,873 florins were donations made direct to the Committee and 122,334 florins were received in public collections organized by local committees. Among direct donations received, the Dutch East Indies, in particular the Red Cross Committee in Batavia, sent a contribution of 74,584 florins. The solidarity displayed here was marked by another significant gesture, a collection organized among the officers and men of the second brigade of the 1st Dutch Army Division, under the command of Colonel de Wrangel; the sum raised was handed over to the Red Cross Society.

The sum of 156,647 florins, or almost half the money spent, served to cover expenditure incurred by ambulances and medical personnel, whose work has already been outlined. The value of material relief supplies furnished by the Dutch Society was esti-

¹ One Dutch guilder or florin was worth 2.08 Swiss francs.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

mated at 100,701 florins, and consignments by the Society's Central Depot were sent to 37 different places. The Dutch representatives at the head of the ambulances also contributed in kind and in cash to relief distributions.

The Bordeaux section sent a subsidy of 2,000 francs to the " ambulance évangélique de Pau ", founded by Englishmen living in that region.

GREAT BRITAIN

The extent of British assistance is clearly reflected in the figures and one can but admire the efficiency and the perfect organization of the relief action set up by the London Red Cross Society. Its big central depot in St. Martin's Place sent consignments to 137 towns and villages in France, Germany and neighbouring countries. Among the organizations that received supplies were the central committees in Paris and Berlin, field hospitals and ambulances in Belgium, the Luxembourg Relief Association, the International Agency in Basle and the International Committee in Geneva.

During the 188 days that relief operations were carried out, 12,000 cases and parcels were distributed. Each day, four tons of supplies were forwarded. Notwithstanding the distance separating the British Isles from the areas where military operations were in progress, with the Channel in between, London responded very rapidly to all requests for aid. One has only to cite the example of Pont-à-Mousson where the church was transformed into a hospital. A cable was sent to London by the local organisers urgently requesting 250 iron bedsteads. They were immediately despatched by the Committee by special train, arriving at Pont-à-Mousson in 48 hours, in charge of a British Society representative who made sure that the distance was covered in the shortest possible time by avoiding congested railway lines.

France was divided into districts, each one with its resident commissioner, generally selected from among officers, on active service or on the retired list, who supervised all operations. In every district were set up main and branch depots, supplied from London, in which the distribution of food, medicaments, clothing, blankets, comforts, etc. was organized over a large area. The North-Eastern District was under Captain H. Brackenbury, and

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

depots were set up at the following towns (figures between brackets showing number of places served): Sarrebrück (27), Arlon (16), Metz (43), Meaux (95), Vesoul (36). Branch depots were set up at Briey (23) and Remilly (57).

Major General Sir Vincent Eyre was in charge of the Northern District, with a depot at Boulogne (76) and a branch depot at Amiens (68). The Western District under Colonel N. Elphinstone had its depot at Tours (77), and the North-Western District under Captain C. L. Harvey at Saint-Malo (35).

Finally, a depot was set up at Versailles (41) under Mr. J. Furley.

At times of emergency, railway waggons carried relief supplies from these depots right up to the front lines where fighting had taken place. For example, 50 waggons were used around Sedan.

As with other societies of neutral countries, the British sent relief to Germany, to those hospitals and local associations swamped by the huge numbers of prisoners of war, wounded and sick.

The London Society's representatives quickly realized how much it meant to the wounded and sick soldiers and prisoners of war to receive aid and comfort at the railway stations on their way to Germany or to hospitals. They set up field kitchens and distribution points in the railway stations of Tours, Forbach, Meaux and Lagny so that they could provide food and drink to the troops crowded together in the waggons. Colonel Cox, a British agent, even set up a field kitchen on the battlefield itself at Querrieux near Amiens on December 23rd 1870. He believed that in providing food and some stimulating drink such as coffee to wounded soldiers immediately after battle, the death rate in the hospitals where they were to be taken for treatment could be reduced by 30 per cent.

The supply of surgical instruments deserves special mention, as also the famous lint and certain disinfectants then unknown in France and highly prized in French hospitals and ambulances.

Total expenses incurred by the British Society during the 1870-71 war amounted to 223,716 pounds¹. This sum included the donation of 20,000 pounds which the Society's Chairman, Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, personally made to each of the Societies of the belligerent countries.

¹ One pound sterling was equivalent at that time to 25.30 Swiss francs.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

SWITZERLAND

By reason of the events, Switzerland was able to demobilize fairly quickly the troops that had been called up to face any special emergency, and the relief societies exerted their efforts to come to the aid of the wounded from the belligerent armies. However, these Cantonal Relief Societies channelled their action of solidarity almost exclusively through the International Agency at Basle. In October 1870, the sum of 40,000 francs ¹ was sent to the Red Cross Central Committee of the two belligerent countries (20,000 francs to each), while Switzerland offered its hospitality to 200 convalescents for a period of four weeks.

However, the greatest contribution that Switzerland made to the movement of solidarity was the generous welcome that it extended to the French Army of the East under the command of General Bourbaki. This army had not been informed that the armistice concluded on January 28th 1871 did not concern it and was incapable of offering any resistance to the victorious advance of the Prussian troops. It crossed the frontier into Switzerland on February 1st 1871, after having obtained the authorization of the Swiss authorities. Bourbaki's army, consisting of 84,271 men and 14,000 horses, was in a piteous state, exhausted and having endured six weeks of icy weather, with temperatures descending to —18° C and —20° C. They were clothed only in blankets and the remains of their tattered uniforms, and many no longer had their boots. 5,116 of them had to be taken immediately to hospitals in Switzerland, the others were interned. In one week, all were settled in internment camps where they were able to rest until the time when they would be sent back home. It was on the Central Committee of the Swiss Red Cross which fell the responsibility of carrying through this large-scale solidarity action.

RUSSIA

The Russian Society had put aside the sum of 80,000 francs ² for relief, in addition to its doctors' expenses abroad. Its personnel

¹ Switzerland was a member of the *Union monétaire latine*, and the Swiss franc was equivalent to the French and Belgian francs.

² One franc was equivalent to 0.26 Russian roubles.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

made direct contributions only in a few cases, as in that of Professor Hübbernet at Chartres. The majority of its relief supplies, for a value of 26,407 francs, were forwarded to the International Agency in Basle.

SWEDEN

The Swedish Red Cross Society gave to the International Agency in Basle the sum of 176,775 francs¹ which it had received through a number of public collections, and 20,000 francs from its own funds. Of the total, 37,737 francs was collected in Norway (Sweden and Norway being at that time united). In Sweden, ladies' committees were formed to organize collections of money, clothing and other necessities. Relief supplies despatched to Basle included shirts, dressings, plaster shears, soap, compresses, flannel belts, etc. Because of the great distance separating Norway from the battlefields and in view of the blockade of the North German ports, the Norwegian Christiana Society did not attempt to send relief supplies but made donations in cash.

PORTUGAL

The Central Committee of the Portuguese Red Cross collected cash donations totalling 25,048 francs and gifts in kind valued at about 5,000 francs. Consignments of clothing, blankets, lint and so on were sent to the Agency at Basle, while the money was transferred to the International Committee in Geneva. In addition, the Portuguese Society despatched to Basle a large number of cases of port wine for the soldiers.

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Red Cross also sent many consignments, mostly to field hospitals and prisons in Germany. 103 large cases, weighing in all 13,046 lb. were forwarded to Germany, where the majority of wounded French soldiers were to be found in field hospitals and town hospitals; 25 cases weighing 3,112 lb. were sent to the French Society, and, at the request of the Viennese Committee for the relief of French prisoners in Germany, 79 cases weighing 13,251 lb. were despatched to German prisons.

¹ One franc was equivalent to 0.72 Swedish crowns.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

The Austrian Society donated a sum of 10,000 francs that was shared between the Paris Central Committee, the French representatives in Brussels and the International Agency in Basle, and also a further sum of about 10,000 francs that was distributed among the Berlin Central Committee and the Committees at Dresden, Munich, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Darmstadt, Flensburg, Rostock and Düsseldorf.

RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The extent of the role of the International Agency in Basle in directing doctors and male nurses towards those points where help was most needed in the fighting areas has already been described. In addition, several Societies had sent to Basle the relief they had available, in cash and in kind, in order to keep up the flow of cash and supplies to the depots of the Agency, which was officially assigned the forwarding to ambulances, field hospitals and other institutions caring for the wounded and sick soldiers. Even those Societies which contributed direct medical or material assistance sent the Agency further supplies in order to support its action.

The amounts received by the International Agency were:

Sweden	159,038 francs	Spain	13,224 francs
Switzerland	118,281 francs	France	12,735 francs
Italy	46,240 francs	Great Britain	4,980 francs
Norway	37,737 francs	Belgium	1,700 francs
Russia	26,407 francs	Austria	1,000 francs
		Germany	468 francs

The highest item of expenditure concerned purchases of relief supplies amounting to 174,316 francs. Cash donations to French committees and field hospitals amounted to 106,345 francs, and similar donations to German organizations totalled 29,139 francs. Transport and freight charges amounted to 32,153 francs.

During the war, the Agency at Basle despatched to field hospitals and depots on both sides of the front 6,425 parcels, most of which contained articles sent from Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Russia. Relief was based on the principle of strict impartiality. But

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

when applied in practice, the result was not a simple sharing of the supplies channelled through the Agency into two equal parts. In its last report, the Agency gave the following explanation of the way its action was directed:

“ The French medical establishments were from the start badly organized, and the resounding defeat of the French armies almost entirely paralysed their action. In contrast, the German ambulances were equipped with care and enjoyed the advantages of an advancing army. On the other hand, they were under the obligation of taking care of the major part of the French wounded, an obligation which, on the whole, they conscientiously fulfilled. Moreover, the lines of communications which the French ambulances had to employ were so difficult that for a long time we could not get through our consignments, while the areas around German field hospitals, even at the farthest points, such as Versailles, Orléans, etc., though not always easily accessible, could all be reached with some patience and determination. In Germany, there was a well-organized network of central and branch depots, from Berlin and Mannheim right up to the front, and we were able to make use of them with ease and safety. The upshot was that we adopted the principle of taking relief supplies to the places where they were most needed and that we did not have to worry about drawing up every day a balance to find out whether supplies sent to France were as large as those sent to Germany or to German-occupied territory. When, later on, we were able, through the Swiss Committee at Lyons, to send to French ambulances money and material, we gladly took advantage of this, and we have reason to hope that, on the whole, we maintained our international position satisfactorily all along. As a consequence of these various circumstances, we sent to Germany a larger amount of material than to France, and for a greater value, but spent more in cash on the maintenance and organization of French ambulances ”.

Another feature of the Agency's action was its use of already existing organizations instead of setting up new bodies. The Agency did all the same set up, through its delegates, a number of small special depots to meet the requirements of minor field hospitals in out-of-the-way places which only received scant supplies from

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

the official depots or none at all. Thus it was that some field hospitals were set up in the Lower Alsace after the first big battles of the war and after the siege of Strasbourg. These received supplies from the network of Agency depots at Niederbronn, Haguenau, Bischwiller, Wendenheim, Robertsau, Saverne, Wörth and Sultz-sous-Forêts. Other depots were established further inside France, as at Epernay.

The Agency's action was conducted most independently and extensively around Belfort and along the fronts of the Lizaine and Doubs, in the towns and villages of Montbéliard, Lure, La Chapelle, Châtenois, Belfort, Héricourt, Bourogne, Dannemarie, Saint-Hyppolite, Pontarlier and Porrentruy. Convoys of two or three vehicles went several times to each of the field hospitals and depots in this region, and carried 1,014 parcels and cash amounting to 21,453 francs.

The Agency even contributed to alleviating the suffering of wounded and sick soldiers in hospital trains which ran in the two belligerent countries between Lorraine and Versailles on the one hand and Munich, Silesia and other distant parts of Germany on the other. One of the delegates coupled railway waggons filled with supplies under his charge to these trains, and, during the journey, distributed clothing, socks, blankets and other necessities to the soldiers carried in these trains.

In order to go to the assistance of French prisoners in Germany, a special committee was set up in Basle under the sign of the green cross. The Agency could not intervene on their behalf, but it sent gifts for those who were in hospitals and for wounded and sick soldiers interned in Switzerland.

It also undertook a very special service, that of *repatriating war disabled* from hospitals in Germany, France and occupied territories, under Article 6, and *additional Article 5*, of the Geneva Convention. By force of circumstance, the number of French repatriated was much superior to the number of Germans. In all, 2,680 disabled soldiers from both armies were repatriated. Moreover, the Agency equipped a 100-bed hospital at Petit-Klingenthal near Basle, where those in need of medical care could be treated.

Finally, in the realm of medical aid, the International Agency crowned its work by the creation of an *institute for providing arti-*

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

ficial limbs to amputees. Under Professor Socin, an Auxiliary Committee, similar to the one dealing with the repatriation of disabled soldiers, took charge of this mission, financed by the sums still available with the Agency when the war ended and by donations specially given for this purpose. For instance, 5,000 francs were made available by the Dutch Red Cross Society. With the sum of 25,440 francs that was collected, it was possible to provide more than 100 disabled soldiers with artificial limbs.

Following the resolutions of the Berlin Conference, a special service was created within the Agency: the *Bureau for the exchange of mail, cash remittances and information*. When the war broke out, no one had imagined how much work there was going to be. The enormous number of soldiers made prisoner by the Prussian troops and kept in internment camps compelled the Agency to intervene, not only on behalf of the wounded, which had been the original Red Cross aim, but also on behalf of the prisoners of war. "The need for a neutral intermediary was quite understandable and most urgent, in view of the disruption of postal communications between the belligerent countries". Three clerks were daily engaged in sorting between 700 and 1,000 letters, some of which had to be opened, re-addressed and forwarded on. The volume of remittances in both directions later grew considerably.

It was not possible to refund remittances sent by relatives to prisoners who were not wounded, for, in most cases, the families did not even know whether the addressees were safe and sound or not.

From early August 1870 to 31 March 1871, the Agency Bureau sent 18,411 remittances, representing a sum of 506,486 francs, to wounded and sick prisoners of war, both French and German.

There were innumerable requests from France for information, but as there were no complete lists of soldiers dead, wounded or sick, relatives could only receive replies concerning those whose names had appeared on one of the five printed lists published by the Geneva International Committee. These, however, were only those of wounded French soldiers treated in German hospitals. With regard to prisoners, the 18 lists published by the Agency and the International Committee for relief to prisoners of war facilitated considerably the task; they bore practically all the names of Germans in the hands of the French Army.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

Special steps were taken to trace all those whose names were not on these lists, and this led to lengthy correspondence and considerable efforts in the endeavours to allay the anxiety of very many French and German families.

In all these very weighty tasks, the Bureau for the exchange of mail, cash remittances and information of the International Agency was ably seconded by the *Belgian Red Cross Information and Mail Bureau*, set up in Brussels. This office, which dealt more specifically with prisoners and internees, forwarded more than 20,000 letters, in addition to a large volume of remittances, in cash and in kind. Further, during its eight months of active work, as a result of tracing operations undertaken upon the request of relatives, it provided news about more than 15,000 wounded.

The Agency at Basle, which was an offshoot of the Geneva International Committee, could not by itself carry out all the many tasks which the Committee had to fulfil. Several problems, which had not caused it any concern during the first few months of the war, later became so urgent and so acute that, from October 1870, they constituted a major source of worry. "Our horizon has widened, either because, due to the continually rising tide of calamities, new avenues have been opened to charitable works, or because the progressive movements of the armies having cut off most of the communications between Switzerland and France, Geneva has seen the direct line of approach between France and Germany drawing nearer and nearer to it."¹

In order to meet all the requests for news and for the despatch of letters and money that were addressed to Geneva, the Committee found it necessary to set up its own *Information Bureau*. No doubt, the major part of this was done by the Agency in Basle, but the Geneva Bureau also took upon itself a not inconsiderable proportion of this humanitarian work. Its volume increased especially after the occupation of Mulhouse and Saint-Louis by the Prussian Army, and all the letters which the Agency in Basle received, to be forwarded to those regions in France which had not been invaded, were re-transmitted to the French postal administration, through the Geneva Bureau. With the aim of making easier the Agency's

¹ Gustave Moynier.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

task and that of its own Information Bureau, the Committee embarked upon the publication of lists of French wounded picked up by German troops. They were drawn up by the German Ministry of War and communicated by the Central Committee of the German Red Cross to the Geneva Committee. By December 31st 1870, three lists containing 7,000 names had been issued, and were sent to all French *préfectures* and *sous-préfectures* as well as to the relief committees in France. In this way, the International Committee hoped to forestall tracing requests and to limit the exchange of correspondence arising therefrom.

Towards the end of 1870, Geneva became a relief distribution centre for French Army ambulances. The International Committee fitted out a warehouse, close to the railway station, which was to receive not only the parcels forwarded by the Agency to the non-occupied areas of France but also the gifts that came pouring in from all over the French-speaking part of Switzerland and the Societies of non-belligerent countries.

The Comité Suisse de Secours in Lyons proved to be of invaluable assistance. It obtained information on the needs of the French Army or on those of the localities where wounded were being taken care of, and forwarded on the consignments despatched by Geneva. It followed the instructions that it received, but made its own appraisal of the areas where relief supplies were most lacking. It was also the Lyons Committee that provided the International Committee with the lists of German wounded in French hands: these lists were then printed and sent throughout Germany by the International Committee.

From the time that General Bourbaki's army crossed the Swiss frontier, a new task fell upon the shoulders of the Geneva Committee, notwithstanding that the Swiss Red Cross Society had undertaken to see to all the needs of the internees. Like in Basle, an auxiliary organization was created in Geneva, called the *Central Relief Agency for Interned Soldiers in Switzerland*, which made enquiries in the various areas where internees had been sent, and organized the distribution of relief sent to Geneva. This body, however, only concerned itself with the able-bodied men, while the International Committee organized a similar service for the sick.

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

Geneva being the main transit point for the French, whether wounded or interned, at the time they were accompanied back to their country, the International Committee took an active part in the efforts made by the Basle Agency for the disabled and by the Swiss Red Cross Society and its Geneva branch for the soldiers interned in Switzerland. A depot with food, clothing, tobacco and primary needs was opened in Geneva Station, so that the needs of the wounded and sick could be attended to. At one time, as many as 800-900 men were daily fed, clothed, lodged and their wounds dressed.

During the whole period of the Franco-Prussian War, from July 15th 1870 to June 30th 1871, receipts and disbursements of the International Committee in Geneva reached the sum of 222,357 francs. However, if to this sum are added the funds handled by the offshoots of the Committee, —the Agency in Basle, the Prisoners of War Committee, and the Central Relief Agency for Interned Soldiers in Switzerland,—and also the remittances in cash made personally to prisoners of war and internees, but forwarded through one or the other of these bodies, the total amount that passed through the Committee exceeded 1,709,000 francs. If it is estimated that gifts in kind were worth a similar sum, then the international organs of the Red Cross distributed more than three million francs of relief during that period.

CONCLUSIONS

The surge of solidarity, so many examples of which were demonstrated during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, constitutes a milestone in the history of the Red Cross.

The awful plight of so many wounded, prisoners and civilians, all of them victims of war, impelled the Red Cross Societies of non-belligerent countries to do much more than had been expected of them. Quite spontaneously, they went to the assistance of those victims of war, and offered a testimony of a solidarity that has here its roots and that has not ceased, in the course of the last century, to be manifest. This first wave of solidarity gave a new dimension to the work, and has forged the unity of the Red Cross which has

THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY

learnt the value of united action and the immense part it could play by combining its efforts.

This action has borne its fruits: governments and armies have understood that these disciplined and law-abiding private societies could bring to them remarkably efficient help. Moreover, it should not be forgotten, too, that the experience acquired by first-class doctors in the ambulances of the Red Cross has greatly contributed to the furtherance of military medicine.

The Red Cross has not defeated war. But, since 1870, it is engaged in a fierce struggle with war. It rescues war's victims and, even on the battlefield itself, it protects man against man. For it has taken up the cause of life.

Victor SEGESVARY
Head, Research Department,
Henry Dunant Institute

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

RED CROSS RELIEF ACTION IN JORDAN

In the October, November and December 1970 numbers, *International Review* published articles on the assistance provided to victims as soon as civil war had broken out in Jordan. An extensive action, undertaken by the Red Cross, became possible thanks to the generous aid supplied by many National Societies after the ICRC had launched on 24 September an appeal to their sense of solidarity. The action by the Red Cross co-ordination group in Jordan terminated on 10 December 1970.

Care of the remaining patients being treated by the Red Cross medical personnel in the King Hussein Hospital at Amman was taken over by the Jordan Ministry of Health. The casualties who had been evacuated to Beirut during the civil war were all repatriated.

Part of the surgical teams' equipment and stocks of medicines were handed over to local hospitals, except for the equipment of three mobile teams which were sent to Beirut where it was stored in the ICRC depots in reserve for emergency.

Relief food and clothing which had reached Beirut but had not been sent on to Jordan was sent to Amman by road.

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The ICRC delegation in Amman, since the end of the relief action, consists of the Head of the delegation, two delegates and a radio operator. There are still numerous problems to be solved and we would like, in this connexion, to mention some of the commonly

called conventional tasks which the ICRC representatives had to face in September and continued to perform during the months following.

In Jordan, there live many refugees from the West Bank of the Jordan, and nearly all have members of their families residing either in Israel or in the occupied territories. A great number of them have relatives in other Arab countries. Those who were already out of Jordan were therefore worried about what might have happened to their kin when they learnt of the dramatic events taking place in Jordan.

As there are no postal facilities between Jordan and Israel, and no communications could be established between Jordan and the outside world, the ICRC delegation in Amman was flooded, right from the start of the civil war, by messages arriving through the various delegations of the International Committee in the Middle East and through the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

The latter at once despatched one of its staff members to Amman. His mission was to organize in the Amman delegation office a bureau that would be, in some sort, a branch of the Agency and where a card index was to be established with the names of all persons, military and civilians, to be traced. The bureau, once set up, was organized on the lines of the Geneva Agency, and a locally-recruited Jordanian was taught the methods employed. He was able, subsequently, to carry on the work begun, under the supervision of the ICRC delegates.

It was necessary first of all to ensure forwarding about 25,000 messages to the addressees. Thanks to the efficient co-operation of the Jordanian Red Crescent, of the Jordan postal authorities (who gave priority to the messages sent in by the delegation), and of numerous volunteers, the messages were distributed and most of them even returned with a reply to the senders, within a period of four weeks.

Some unhappily bore no reply. They had been sent to persons who were "missing": either their homes had been destroyed and they had been obliged to move elsewhere, or they were dead, or else they had left the country as refugees, for some unknown reason, or, again, they had been wounded and taken away to neighbouring countries. In each of these cases, the delegation has

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

started enquiries, with the active help of the Jordanian Red Crescent and of the " Palestinian Red Crescent ".

In addition, in view of the unstable situation, a number of refugees wished to return to their former homes in Israel-occupied territory, especially where members of their families had remained there. The ICRC delegation in Amman, in such cases, dealt with these operations involving repatriation and the reuniting of families, and still continues to do so.

Finally, ICRC representatives travelled throughout the country in order to inform the inhabitants of distant villages and hamlets that they could apply to the delegation in Amman, which would undertake to forward family messages, trace missing persons and help each one to find a solution for any other problems of a purely humanitarian nature, where only a neutral institution such as the Red Cross can intervene.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Near East

Reuniting of families.—The ICRC delegates in the Near East arranged the reuniting of a number of families: two persons on 19 November and a further seven on 25 November joined their families in the occupied territory of the Golan Heights. At El Qantara on the Suez Canal an operation on a larger scale took place on 9 December when 90 Palestinians returned to the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai and 183 other persons rejoined their families in the United Arab Republic.

Israel and the occupied territories

Visits to prisoners of war.—On 15 November 1970 the ICRC delegates in Israel visited, at the Sarafand military camp prison, all the prisoners of war in Israel: 69 from the United Arab Republic, 39 from Syria, 10 from the Lebanon and 1 from Jordan. These prisoners are visited from time to time by ICRC delegates, who paid a further visit to this prison on 6 December.

Visits to prisons.—From 7 October to 11 November 1970 the ICRC delegates carried out the twelfth series of visits to prisons in Israel and the occupied territories. They went to 13 places of detention where they saw 3,249 Arab detainees. They enquired into detention conditions and interviewed without witnesses detainees of their choice.

Parcels of fruit, biscuits and cigarettes are distributed each month to detainees who have not been visited by their families for three months. In October, 420 prisoners received such parcels and 494 in November. In addition, the delegation again organized bus transport for families unable to afford the fare to visit detained

relatives. In October 1970, 3,062 people took advantage of this bus service.

As customary, reports on these visits are issued to the detaining authorities and to the detainees' own government.

United Arab Republic

Repatriation of detainees.—During a family reuniting operation at El Qantara, on the Suez Canal, on 4 November 1970, ICRC delegates for Israel and the occupied territories arranged repatriation to the United Arab Republic of five detainees from the Gaza prison.

Visit to prisoners of war.—On 6 December 1970 the ICRC delegates visited two wounded Israeli prisoners of war in a Cairo hospital. They also visited the other ten Israeli prisoners of war on 10 December.

Lebanon

On 2 November a herd of goats which had strayed into Israel during a storm was returned to the owner in the Lebanon. On 9 and 11 November two Lebanese civilians were repatriated to Roshanikra. A fishing boat belonging to one of them was towed to the territorial waters limit on 16 November and returned to its owner.

These operations were carried out under ICRC auspices, as also was the repatriation of an Israeli civilian arrested on 11 November 1970 at Yaroun and released by the Lebanese authorities on 17 November.

Syria

The ICRC delegate in Syria visited three Israeli prisoners of war on 28 November 1970. Two of the prisoners were captains captured by the Syrian armed forces on 2 April 1970; the third a lieutenant taken prisoner on 26 June last.

The delegate enquired into detention conditions. The report is delivered to the detaining authorities and the prisoners' government.

On 10 December 1970, he visited an Israeli civilian who had been detained since the beginning of the year.

Yemen Arab Republic

Artificial limb workshop.—In October 1970, sixteen more disabled persons brought to 108 the number of patients at Sana'a requiring artificial limbs. Nine have started training to use their prostheses.

In the same month the Yemeni apprentices under the guidance of Mr. Gherels, the ICRC limb-maker, produced nine artificial legs and the first arm prosthesis. Nine pairs of crutches were issued.¹

Donation of medicines and surgical equipment.—Following the withdrawal at the end of August of the ICRC medical mission from the Khamer hospital in the north of the country, the ICRC decided to give its medicines and surgical equipment there to two Sana'a hospitals. The ICRC delegates handed over the donation in October.

Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen

The ICRC delegate in the Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen, in the first fortnight of December 1970, visited all the prisoners of war captured during the Wadihia incident in December 1969.

On 6 December he visited the 37 Saudi prisoners of war detained in the Democratic and Popular Republic of the Yemen and a few days later he went to Saudi Arabia to visit the 24 South Yemeni prisoners of war.

ICRC mission in South-East Asia

From 3 November to 10 December 1970 Mr. Jean Ott, ICRC Delegate-General for Asia, and Mr. Michel Barde, Delegate, carried out a fact-finding mission to various ICRC delegations in South-East Asia.

They first went to *India* where they represented the ICRC at the ceremony commemorating the jubilee of the Indian Red Cross Society. We shall be giving an account of this in our next issue.

¹ See *International Review*, October 1970.



The Peruvian Red Cross has undertaken to deliver relief supplies from the ICRC to political prisoners. **Cuzco**: Peruvian Red Cross Administrative Director, Mr. Campos (with Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, on his right) signs the list of medicines...

PERU

...and at **Huancayo** he issues detainees with blankets from the National Society.



Whilst in India they met Shri V. V. Giri, President of the Republic, Shri Gopal Swarup Pathak, Vice-President, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Minister of Information. As the guests of the Red Cross, they were received by Shri K. K. Shah, Chairman of the Managing Body, Dr. Gurbax Singh, Vice-Chairman, and Major General S.S. Maïtra, Secretary General, together with their colleagues.

In *Thailand* Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde met the Chief of the Central Bureau, Khun Bibidh Virajjakar, and other leading members.

They then went to the *Republic of Vietnam* and had talks with several members of the Government and of the Red Cross, namely Mr. Tran-van-Lam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Nguyen-van-Vy, Minister of National Defence, Dr. Tran Minh Tung, Minister of Health, Colonel Sanh, Director of Prison Correctional Institutions, Colonel Nguyen-Quoc-Tuan, Head of the Vietnamese Army Staff "Premier Bureau", General Hoan, Head Physician, Mr. Chat, Secretary of State for the Interior and Mr. Nguyen Phu Duc, Special Assistant to the President of the Republic for Political Affairs.

They also had discussions with members of the Red Cross, with the US Ambassador to Saigon, Mr. E. Bunker, and with several other American officials.

With Mr. J. Millioud, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Saigon, and Mr. Junod, Delegate, they met Dr. Pham-van-Hat, President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Trung, Vice-President, and their colleagues.

Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde took advantage of their presence in the Republic of Vietnam to visit several places of detention and to take part in a seminar attended by all ICRC delegates on mission in South-East Asia.

The next stage of the journey was the *Khmer Republic* where they were received in audience by the President of the Council of Ministers, General Lon Nol. They also met Mr. Koun Wick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chau Xeng Ua, Minister for Social Welfare and Labour, and Brigadier General Kâng Kéng, Minister of Health. They also visited the President of the Cambodian Red Cross, Miss Plech Phiroun, and the Secretary-General Mr. Khiou Bonthonn.

They also inspected two Cambodian refugee camps and a camp of Vietnamese at Phnom-Penh.

Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde next spent several days in *Laos* where they were granted interviews by Mr. Ratanavong, Director of Political and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Khoupom Pangar, the Prime Minister's Representative for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Oudon Souvannavong, President of the Lao Red Cross and Inspector of Public Health, and Mr. Khampai Abhay, Secretary of State for Public Health. Mr. Ott was also received in audience by H. H. Prince Souvanaphouma.

The last stage of the journey was to *Nepal*. There Mr. Ott and Mr. Barde had contacts with Dr. Jaya-N. Giri, Secretary-General of the Nepal Red Cross and they visited a camp for Tibetan refugees.

Republic of Vietnam

In October 1970, the delegates and doctors of the ICRC in the Republic of Vietnam visited the prisoner of war camps of Qui-Nhon, Cân-Tho, Pleiku and Biên-Hoà, administered by the Vietnamese armed forces. In each of these places of detention, they were able to speak without witnesses with prisoners of their own choice. They also visited two correctional institutions at Quang-Ngai and Qui-Nhon.

Khmer Republic

Visits to refugee camps.—On 4 November 1970, the delegates of the ICRC in the Khmer Republic visited at Phnom-Penh Vietnamese refugees in the camp set up by the Cao-Dai as well as Cambodian refugees living in the “Jeunesse de Sauvetage” camp.

In the Cao-Dai camp there are 675 Vietnamese belonging to 133 families. These displaced persons arrived on 26 October last in Phnom-Penh, coming from the region around Bac Préa (Battambang Province), and are being gradually repatriated by river.

The “Jeunesse de Sauvetage” camp shelters 635 Cambodian refugees, most of them from Rattanakiri Province.

On 18 November the delegates went to the camp of Chak Angré on the Ta Khman road at the outskirts of Phnom-Penh.

There are in this camp 63 Cambodian families, totalling 383 persons, from the provinces of Rattanakiri and Kompong-Cham.

Many families were made homeless on 20 November, when a munitions depot exploded in Phnom-Penh. A reception camp was immediately opened and the following day the ICRC delegates, accompanied by a representative of the Cambodian Red Cross, visited the camp in which some 2,500 families were living whilst seeking new homes.

Laos

On 10 October 1970, a delegate and a doctor-delegate of the ICRC visited Samkhé Prison at Vientiane and saw the prisoners of war there. The delegates enquired into detention conditions and interviewed detainees of their choice without witnesses.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The ICRC delegate for West Africa visited a second time eight Portuguese military prisoners held by the " Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile " in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, a ninth, seriously wounded prisoner was repatriated by the ICRC on 9 December 1970.

Zambia

At the request of the " National Union for the Total Independence of Angola " a Portuguese woman and her daughter were repatriated by ICRC delegates for East Africa on 18 December 1970. The repatriation was made possible by the good offices of the Zambian Red Cross.

Latin America

Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions.—During their respective missions, Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, and Mr. E. Leemann, Delegate, usefully contributed to the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions among National Red Cross Societies and armed forces.

Apart from the full text of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, summaries were sent in the second half of 1970 to several countries: the National Societies of Venezuela and Ecuador each received 2,000 copies for the armed forces; the Guatemalan Red Cross received 1,000 copies; the Jamaican Red Cross 2,000, also intended for the armed forces; the Colombian Ministry of Defence received 5,000 copies. In addition, a reprint of the summary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions in Spanish is now under way.

Visit to places of detention.—Continuing the mission which he began on 6 September 1970 in Latin America, Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, went to Peru. Having received from the authorities all the requisite facilities to carry out his mission, he visited, in November, seven places of detention where he saw 45 persons detained for political reasons.¹ In each he enquired into detention conditions and interviewed detainees of his own choice in private.

Whilst in Peru Mr. Leemann had talks with the leading members of the National Red Cross Society and with members of the government.

During his Latin America mission, the ICRC delegate visited more than 300 detainees in 38 places of detention in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

IN GENEVA

Honorary members of the ICRC

During a plenary session on 10 December 1970, the International Committee, after taking note of the resignations of Mr. Martin Bodmer, Mr. Hans Meuli and Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati, appointed them to honorary membership.

¹ *Plate.*

It was in 1940 that Mr. Martin Bodmer was co-opted to the ICRC of which he has been Vice-President on several occasions. In 1947-48, during Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt's absence, he assumed the Presidency *ad interim* jointly with Dr. Ernest Gloor.

During the Second World War he devoted his energies entirely to the "intellectual relief" of prisoners of war. He was the prime mover of that action and the service which he directed distributed almost a million and a half books which were sorted, classified and in many cases reconditioned before despatch to prisoner of war camps and internment camps where they provided moral sustenance to many victims throughout the world. In addition to these books the service sent widely varied objects of religious significance, university courses, teaching and laboratory material as well as games of all sorts.

He it was who initiated the ICRC's annual collection drive in Switzerland which he directed for many years. The importance today of that source of finance for the institution is well-known.

Mr. Bodmer also rendered signal service to the ICRC by discharging many missions in the field, in Germany, Greece, USA, India, Nepal, Australia and New Zealand, representing the institution at several ceremonies, delivering many conferences and writing a number of important articles on the Red Cross.

The International Committee is profoundly grateful to him for having accomplished these important and numerous duties with a dedication and noble outlook which were valuable in the past and will be so in the future when the ICRC has recourse to his broad experience in Red Cross problems.

Mr. Hans Meuli held the high office of head physician of the Swiss army from 1946 to 1960. During that time he represented his country at three International Conferences of the Red Cross and also at the Diplomatic Conference which took place in Geneva in 1949.

Mindful of his constant interest in Red Cross and the invaluable services which he rendered as a participant to several meetings of experts which it convened after the Second World War, the ICRC co-opted him to membership in 1961. Since that time, Mr. Meuli has actively participated in the work of the ICRC and he has several

times been a member of the Presidential Council. He represented the institution at international meetings, at Florence, for example, in 1962, and at the second international refresher course for junior medical officers. He was, moreover, for a long time the director of these refresher courses and has for a number of years been one of the Honorary Presidents of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy.

In addition, he published in *International Review* a study entitled “*De la neutralité du personnel sanitaire au cours des hostilités*” as part of the discussion to which the *Review* opened its pages on the special position and protection of medical personnel of the armed forces in time of war.

The International Committee has conveyed to Mr. Meuli its sincere gratitude for his contribution to the work of the Red Cross and for his faithful service to the humanitarian ideal.

Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati was co-opted by the International Committee in 1949. He has sat on several of the Institution's commissions, such as the one responsible for relief and social questions. For a long time he represented the ICRC on the staff social fund management commission and took particular interest in problems affecting refugees and migrants.

In a general way he has always been concerned with making the Red Cross idea more universal and with the improvement of its dissemination throughout the world, aiming to make its image less “western” in order to permit its acceptance by all civilizations. This is confirmed in his writings for various reviews and particularly in a study which he published in *International Review* in January 1955 and which was entitled “The Diversity of Cultural Circles and Humanitarian Action”.

Mr. Olgiati carried out several missions for the ICRC. With Messrs. Ruegger, Gloor and Sordet he went to Moscow in 1950 and in the following year to Mexico to represent the ICRC at the Inter-American Red Cross Conference. In 1956 he went to the United States for the 75th anniversary of the American Red Cross and then, as he had done several times, he went to the Federal Republic of Germany and also visited the National Societies of Norway and Denmark.

The International Committee expressed its gratitude to Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati for the useful service he gave with unstinting generosity to the Red Cross cause.

A Tribute from the ICRC

Mr. Frédéric SiorDET recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. On that occasion the International Committee, of which he is an honorary member, awarded him its Silver Medal as a testimony of profound gratitude. It was presented to him on 9 December 1970 at an informal ceremony attended by his colleagues.

The President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, paid tribute to him in the following terms:

... It was in 1943 that you joined our ranks, at the height of the war which was devastating the world and setting us unprecedented tasks. The way was strewn with difficulties and pitfalls, so that your assistance was particularly welcome. You soon displayed the extent of your dedication, your talent, and your personality. The Committee conferred on you the title of counsellor, a title for which no one was better qualified, for in those troubled times your wisdom, your ideal and your charism for conciliation worked wonders.

After taking an active part in the diversified work of that period, you described it convincingly in "Inter arma caritas".

Then you were closely associated in the great work of translating experience acquired into legal codification, an enterprise in which you gave your legal science free rein. You took part daily, as an expert, in the Geneva Diplomatic Conference. The revision of the Geneva Conventions in 1949 and the conclusion of a new Convention relative to the protection of civilians culminated this huge joint effort. The articles concerning supervision and the famous article 3 which has rendered such signal service in internal conflicts bear your indelible stamp.

Then, when these laws had been adopted by the Powers, you applied yourself, together with your colleagues, to drawing up commentaries on them which are recognized as authoritative.

In 1951 the International Committee invited you to become a member. You soon became one of its Vice-Presidents and you retained

that office for many years. As a member of the presidential council you gave the benefit of your considerable experience and humanity.

It is impossible to review everything you have done. But I would mention that you have represented us at many congresses, that you have undertaken missions which took you to the far corners of the world, in Australia and China, and that you upheld steadfastly and with enthusiasm the cause which you knew to be noble and worthy of being defended wherever you spread the good word, the message of the heart and of the mind which alone gives life to our work.

Mr. Siordet expressed his thanks in moving terms. He recalled some personal memories, expressed his attachment for the common cause and affirmed his faith in the indestructible ideal of the Red Cross.

New Year message for 1971

As in past years, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a message, transmitted on radio and television in many countries, in French, English, German, Spanish and Italian :

Civilian populations reduced to famine, women and children buried beneath the ruins of their bombed homes, burnt-out ambulances, prisoners and detainees deprived of communication with their families and subjected to intimidation and torture, statesmen and diplomats kidnapped or assassinated, aircraft hijacked and their passengers held as hostages, unbridled violence and brutal repression; such was the horror of war during the year which is now drawing to a close.

With the escalation of hate and suffering, there is a risk of discouragement, resignation and capitulation to brute force. Such an attitude would be disastrous. The efforts of so many previous generations to establish international rules for peaceful co-existence and the protection of the human being must not be allowed to come to nought. The rule of law must be reaffirmed. We must believe in it. That is a duty of us all.

The task facing the Red Cross is clear. It is the development of international humanitarian law, the extension of the application of

that law and its adaptation to new forms of contemporary conflicts. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been concerned with the problem for a long time. It is now in a position to broach the stage of concrete measures. Strong in the unanimous support which the International Conference of the Red Cross voted for it in September 1969 at Istanbul, and in the recent official encouragement of the United Nations, the International Committee has convened for the first half of 1971 two conferences, one of governmental and the other of National Red Cross experts. The aim of these conferences is to propose rules for adoption by States to improve and extend international treaties relative to war victims. Civilians must be better protected; certain weapons and methods of warfare must be outlawed; captured combatants and political detainees must have their elementary rights better safeguarded and medical facilities and personnel must be respected. States must accept some limitation to their sovereignty for the benefit of selfless humanitarianism. That is the wish of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and its efforts will be directed to that end.

An Important Year for the ICRC Telecommunications Service

The importance of the ICRC telecommunications service, which has its main station in Geneva, increased in 1970. Before setting out the information bearing witness to this fact, we would briefly recall the origin and development of this service.¹

* * *

It would hardly be conceivable for the ICRC to discharge the complex duties incumbent on it today without a communications system which is both reliable and rapid, permitting instant connection between Geneva and the various places where the Red Cross is in action. Such a system is the only way for ICRC delegations not to be isolated. In all quarters of the globe they may keep in direct contact with the ICRC, informing it of their needs and receiving its directives. Although subject to restrictions, a Red Cross world-wide radiocommunications emergency network ensures the immediate transmission of messages and the effective organization of relief.

Since 1963 the ICRC has been operating from its headquarters a radiocommunications station manned by experienced professionals. Special frequencies have been allocated to the ICRC by the Swiss authorities and these have been confirmed by the International Telecommunications Union. Under the concession, the ICRC is authorized to establish its own radio links when called upon to intervene in the event of conflict, disaster or similar circumstances provided the public telecommunication network is unreliable because it is overloaded, damaged, disrupted or has no direct circuit to the place where the Red Cross has to intervene.

¹ In doing so we have referred to articles in previous issues of *International Review* (December 1964, January 1965 and March 1966).

It was the installation and operation by the ICRC of a field hospital in the heart of the Yemeni desert which highlighted the essential role of radio connection among operational centres, delegations and ICRC headquarters. In January 1964 the mobile stations at Uqhd and Jeddah had recourse to radio connection with Geneva on a scale which increased daily. Subsequently other ICRC actions, in circumstances necessitating immediate humanitarian intervention, demonstrated the utility of a world-wide radiocommunications network which the ICRC could also make available to the League and National Societies in emergency.

The following is a summary of the telecommunications service activities in 1970.

EQUIPMENT

Main station in Geneva: This comprises three transmitting-receiving units:

Station 1: Although this came into service at the beginning of 1964 it is still in perfect running order and used for contacting amateur radio enthusiasts in view of its cheap operation. This station has two transmitting and two receiving sets.

Station 2: This was installed in 1969. It consists of professional equipment for round-the-clock operation. It transmits by telegraphy, telephony or radioteletype on frequencies between two and thirty megacycles.

Antennas: It is planned to transfer the radio station away from the ICRC headquarters in order to avoid the disturbances caused by the rather powerful electromagnetic field and also the electrical disturbances when messages are received.

The setting up of a new antenna presents no major problem.

Mission stations: Experience last year, with the constant connections with ICRC delegations in Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Dahomey, demonstrated that the new "RF-Controller" sets not only improved communications with the missions but were easier to handle. A doctor or delegate without any technical knowledge can soon learn to use these sets. The instructions are simple and

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

non-specialized operators can use the equipment without difficulty to contact the ICRC or other Red Cross units by radiotelephony.

The following mobile sets are available at Geneva or are in use by missions:

20 RF-Controllers	RF-201	power 100 Watts
2 transmitters-receivers	SR 2000	power 2000 Watts
7 transmitters-receivers	SR-150	power 80 Watts
7 transmitters-receivers	SR-160	power 80 Watts
8 transmitters-receivers	SB-34	power 60 Watts

OPERATIONS

Yemen Arab Republic. — On 18 January 1970, connection with Sana'a was re-established after an interruption which had lasted for several months. This communication was by radiotelegraphy until the end of September since when it has been by radiotelephony. Radiotelephony between headquarters and the Sana'a delegation and the ICRC medical mission at Sada'a and later at Hodeida, was excellent even though it was not made by radio operators but by the doctors themselves.

Since October trials were made by radioteletype. They were satisfactory but showed that the equipment at ICRC headquarters was not entirely suitable for such a service, reception being affected by disturbance from numerous industrial sources.

Dahomey and Equatorial Guinea. — On 16 February 1970 the ICRC delegation left Cotonou where it had been for several months and connection with Dahomey ceased. Radiotelephony and radiotelegraphy with Umuahia ceased on 9 January. The Santa Isabel radio transmitted to Geneva for the last time on 23 February. Thus the considerable traffic which began in December 1967 was brought to an end.

Brazil. — A completely new operation in the history of ICRC telecommunications began in May 1970.

The ICRC sent a team to survey the conditions and needs of the Indian populations of the Amazon. The team, three doctors, an

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS RADIO STATION

الطبيب الأحمر الدولي
محطة الراديو

Amman: receiving a message at the ICRC transmitting-receiving station.

Photos Gordon-Lennox





Photo François Martin, Geneva

Dacca: communicating with Geneva by the transmitting-receiving set lent by the ICRC to the League of Red Cross Societies.

ethnologist and an ICRC delegate, stayed in Brazil several months. In view of the great distance and the unreliability of transport in that area it was not possible for a radio operator to accompany the team.

The doctors were therefore taught to operate the transmitting-receiving set and to set up a unidirectional antenna on a telescopic mast. As they were in a region far from civilization they also had to take with them their own power generating set.

Their first radiotelephonic contact with Geneva was made, as planned, on 23 May 1970. Thereafter contact was regular.

The mission returned to Switzerland on 18 August and its last radio contact with Geneva was on 6 August from Brasilia.

Nigeria. — The ICRC operated a radiotelephony network in Nigeria, linking Lagos with several other towns. As part of the Nigerian Red Cross program, twelve transmitting-receiving sets were operated by an ICRC radio technician. The operation was brought to an end on 30 June 1970.

Middle East. — On 6 September 1970 two aircraft were hijacked and four governments entrusted the ICRC to act as a neutral intermediary. To discharge that duty a permanent and rapid link between Amman and Geneva was important, and the aircraft which conveyed an ICRC delegation to Amman on 7 September had aboard a radio technician and operator with a transmitting-receiving set.

The Jordanian authorities were understanding and without delay granted the ICRC a radio operating concession. On 8 September, at 10 a.m., the radiotelegraphic link was made and intense day and night traffic started.¹

The hostilities which broke out in Amman nine days later interrupted the contact which was resumed only on 22 September. This, and the wish to maintain direct connection between Amman and Beirut induced the ICRC to apply to the relevant telecommunications service in Beirut for a concession. This was granted on 25 September. The following day, the first link with Beirut was

¹ *Plate.*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

made and, simultaneously, the ICRC delegations in Amman and the Lebanese capital had their first radiotelephonic contact. The Damascus delegation was added to the network on 28 October after a concession was granted the ICRC a few days previously.

PERSONNEL

As in previous years, one of the major difficulties facing the telecommunications service was radio operator recruiting. We now need at all times three French and English-speaking operators who can send and receive in Morse and can from one day to another take leave from their employment in public or private enterprise in Switzerland and elsewhere.

Since 1963 we have had recourse to trained technicians and today we are training amateur radio enthusiasts to operate our station. We have also started negotiations with the Swiss postal authorities in order to give amateur radio enthusiasts regular training in Morse at our main station in Geneva.

TRAFFIC

From 800 in 1967, the number of radio messages rose to 4,387 in 1968 then dropped to 2,850 in 1969 and rose again in 1970 to 3,300, equivalent to about 165,000 words.

CONCLUSION

The ICRC radio telecommunications network is operated in a manner consistent with the most demanding professional standards, and efforts are being made to improve recruitment and training of temporary staff. The usefulness of the radiocommunications service is obvious, considering that through it the ICRC may contact rapidly and reliably its delegates in the far corners of the earth and the League may, as was the case recently in East Pakistan, contact a National Society.¹

¹ *Plate.*

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

TO THE HELP OF EAST PAKISTAN CYCLONE VICTIMS

Last month, we published an article on the vast relief action undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies and numerous National Societies for the victims of the cyclone and tidal wave which devastated the Bengal region, the East Pakistan coastal area and its off-shore islands in November 1970. This action has assumed large proportions, and the League has published various items of information regarding the relief despatched. Supplies delivered by 59 donor National Societies to the end of December 1970 were estimated at approximately 43 million Swiss francs.

*

We mentioned in our previous number that the European Economic Community had drawn from its stocks for Nigeria a certain quantity of foodstuffs which the ICRC had made available to the League for its relief operations in Pakistan. Most unfortunately, a plane carrying part of this relief food crashed. This was announced by the League and the ICRC on 3 December.

A turboprop plane, chartered in Luxemburg by the International Committee of the Red Cross to fly relief food to cyclone-ravaged East Pakistan, crashed and disintegrated while approaching to land at Dacca airport, on 30 November. All four crew members were killed instantly. They were:

Captain Omar Tomasson (born 1934), Reykjavik; Co-pilot Birgir Oern Jonsson (born 1940), Reykjavik; Flight-Engineer Stefan Olafsson (born 1938), Reykjavik; Flight-Mechanic Jean-Paul Tompers (born 1938), Luxemburg.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The President of Pakistan, General A. M. Yahya Khan, cabled the following message of sympathy:

“ I am deeply shocked and grieved to hear about tragic crash of a C-144 cargo plane near Savar carrying relief materials from the Red Cross for the cyclone victims of East Pakistan, and the death of all its crew members. The accident is all the more tragic and poignant as it took place only a few miles from Dacca, when the plane was coming in to land. The crew members, who were on a mercy mission to relieve human misery and suffering, have given their lives in a noble cause. I express our deepest sympathies and grief on behalf of the people of Pakistan at this unfortunate accident. Please convey my sincere condolences and the condolences of my Government and the people of Pakistan to the members of the bereaved families.”

From Dacca, Mr. Justice B. A. Siddiky, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Cross, also sent a message of sympathy:

“ Deeply distressed tragic accidental plane crash which took lives of four crew men on Red Cross mission of aid to our country. Kindly transmit most sincere and heartfelt condolences to bereaved families and charter company.”

The Foreign Affairs Minister and Home Secretary of Pakistan also sent messages of sympathy.

Germany

Federal Republic

It is very important for National Societies to make known to a wide public in their countries, through the medium of the press, radio, television or publications of their own, those important legal provisions which lay down the principles underlying

Red Cross action. Recognizing this, the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany has published a book containing various official texts and also an in-depth theoretical study from the pen of Mr. Anton Schlögel, the Society's Secretary-General.¹ *International Review* took pleasure a few months ago in quoting extracts from the book which analyses the problem of protecting the victims of non-international armed conflicts.

The book quotes an interesting speech delivered in Berlin in 1969 by Mr. Walter Bargatzky, President of the National Society, on the Red Cross and its efforts to prevent war, and also gives the speeches made at the opening session of the XX1st International Conference of the Red Cross, which we reproduced in November 1969.

Mr. H. Platz discusses an important question which was on the agenda of the Istanbul Conference: the protection of medical establishments. Finally, Mr. Schlögel broadly outlines the work of the conference and the mission incumbent on the Red Cross today as defined in conference resolutions, which the book quotes in full.

¹ *Schutz des Menschen — Schach dem Krieg*, German Red Cross, *Schriftenreihe Nr. 43*, Bonn, 164 pp.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIME OF ARMED CONFLICT

An Important Resolution by the General Assembly of the United Nations

Readers of *International Review* are informed of the resolutions adopted in 1968 and 1969 by the U.N. General Assembly on this important subject.¹

In 1969 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his studies and submit a further report. That important document [A/8052] was circulated to the delegations at the General Assembly at the beginning of October 1970 and, in several meetings, starting on 4 November, was examined by the Third Commission of the Assembly.

The General Assembly adopted five resolutions:

The first concerned the plight of journalists undertaking dangerous assignments in combat zones.

The second was more general in nature; *inter alia*, it gave a reminder that all States should avoid starting aggression and armed conflict, consistent with the United Nations Charter, and it recognized the need to draw up international instruments to protect civilian population and certain categories of combatants.

The aim of the third was to lay down basic principles for the protection of civilian population in time of armed conflict.

The subjects of the fourth were: treatment of prisoners of war; repatriation of seriously wounded or sick prisoners; repatriation or internment in a neutral country of able-bodied prisoners after long captivity.

The fifth resolution is quoted below. It lays down directives for the continuation of work and of co-operation between the U.N.

¹ See *International Review* September 1968 and March 1969.

Secretary-General and the Red Cross. It was adopted by 111 votes, with four abstentions.

The International Committee of the Red Cross was represented during the sittings of the Third Commission by Mr. C. Pilloud, Director of the Department of Principles and Law, and by Mr. A. D. Micheli, delegate to international organizations. They were available for consultation by the Secretary-General and his staff, as well as by delegations.

Speakers taking the floor at the meetings of the Commission showed great esteem for Red Cross work in the realm of humanitarian law and welcomed the effective UN-ICRC co-operation.

The Third Commission's resolutions were approved by the Plenary Assembly on 9 December. The discussions which led to the adoption of these resolutions were of particular interest for the Red Cross and, before quoting the fifth resolution mentioned above, we believe it will be useful to give some extracts of the Third Commission's report to the plenum (doc. A/8178). (*Ed.*)

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"7. The members of the Committee fully subscribed to the statement contained in the preamble to resolution XXIII of the International Conference on Human Rights that peace was the underlying condition for the full observance of human rights and war was their negation. They expressed the conviction that the principal concern of the United Nations and of the States members of the international community should continue to be to prevent armed conflicts from breaking out, which was an essential prerequisite for the effective protection of human rights. However, inasmuch as resort to armed violence had regrettably not been eliminated, and wars and armed conflicts of various types continued to erupt and to plague the world, it was agreed in the Committee that it was imperative that, in every armed conflict, unrelenting efforts to put an end to it as soon as possible should be pursued in conjunction with national and international measures to limit as far as possible unnecessary sufferings of human beings while the conflict lasted. The Committee recognized that, given the horrors and the cruelty inherent in armed confrontations, the endeavour to minimize their destructive effect

MISCELLANEOUS

on human rights through the application in all armed conflicts of international humanitarian rules assumed paramount importance.

8. There was general agreement in the Committee that the two reports prepared by the Secretary-General (A/7720 and A/8052) were of great significance and value in that they contained a clear analysis of the issues involved and a wealth of relevant data and information, as well as interesting and sound ideas and suggestions which, as a whole, represented an important contribution to the study of the subject to which they were devoted and which would greatly assist in the task of strengthening respect for human rights in all armed conflicts.

9. All members of the Committee expressed satisfaction at the close consultation and the fruitful co-operation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross in carrying out the activities which each side was mandated to pursue within the framework of the common international effort to enhance the protection of human rights in all armed conflicts through the more effective application of existing humanitarian rules or, where appropriate, the formulation of new ones. It was stressed that such harmonious contacts and relations should be maintained in the future. In this connexion, the members of the Committee paid tribute to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its important and pioneering role through the decades in the development and codification of the existing body of humanitarian law.

10. During the discussion in the Committee speakers reaffirmed the premises and objectives of resolution XXIII of the International Conference on Human Rights and General Assembly resolutions 2444 (XXIII) and 2597 (XXIV), including, in particular, recognition of the necessity of applying basic humanitarian principles in all armed conflicts, and acknowledgement of the need to continue, in an appropriate manner, the studies and activities initiated by those resolutions. In this connexion, the general opinion was that the tasks laid down in the aforementioned resolutions should be pursued with caution and deliberate speed, in full awareness of what the reports of the Secretary-General had vividly illustrated to be the importance, difficulty and complexity of the

subject matter, of the desirability of preserving the exclusively humanitarian character of the endeavour, and of the avoidance of duplication of work. Accordingly, in terms of the order and procedures to which future activities should conform, a generally acceptable view in the Committee was that full advantage should be taken of the work expected to be accomplished by the committee of governmental experts which the International Committee of the Red Cross planned to convene in May/June 1971. This committee of governmental experts would examine the various aspects of the question of reaffirming and developing humanitarian law and the problems involved. Members of the Committee favoured making available to the committee of governmental experts the two reports of the Secretary-General and the records of the relevant discussions and decisions of United Nations organs, for appropriate consideration. By subsequently transmitting to the General Assembly, if possible, at its twenty-sixth session, the results of the deliberations of that committee and other pertinent activities of the Red Cross, it was thought that a pattern of efficient and mutually beneficial consultation would be established. According to certain representatives this pattern would eventually enable the United Nations to decide as to what action to take on the question so as to render the best service to the objective of respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which was shared by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Meanwhile, Governments should be invited to comment on the two reports of the Secretary-General, and to communicate their observations to the General Assembly. Furthermore, the Secretary-General should be requested to follow relevant developments in the light of his continuing study and examination of the question.

11. There was concurrence in the Committee with the conclusion, stated in paragraph 14 of the second report of the Secretary-General (A/8052), that the text of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 should, as far as possible, remain untouched and that nothing should be done to cast doubt on their validity and binding character. It was agreed that these Conventions contained valuable provisions and procedures which had been ratified by a very large number of States. They should, however, be both better applied and be adapted to developments in the methods used in armed conflicts

MISCELLANEOUS

since 1949. One of the basic objectives of United Nations efforts would therefore appear to be strengthening the impact of the Geneva Conventions, encouraging their full application and assisting in making their provisions better known and more efficacious in order that they might afford more effective protection to those whom they were designed to benefit.

12. At the same time it was recognized that, because of the new forms sometimes taken by modern armed conflict, the existing instruments showed certain inadequacies and gaps which the international community should endeavour to remedy, preferably through the elaboration of instruments which would be legally binding and which, in the opinion of some delegations, should be open for ratification on the basis of the principle of universality."

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RESOLUTION 2677 (XXV)

Respect for human rights in armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Determined to continue all efforts to eliminate the threat or use of force in international relations, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, and to bring about general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Reaffirming its desire to secure the full observance of human rights applicable in all armed conflicts pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Convinced of the continuing value of existing humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts, in particular the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

Realizing, however, that because existing humanitarian rules do not adequately meet all contemporary situations of armed conflict it is necessary to develop the substance of these rules and procedures for their implementation,

Reaffirming the principles contained in resolution XXIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran in 1968, and in General Assembly resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2597 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Aware of the importance and complexity of the tasks undertaken in pursuance of these resolutions, which require the continuing attention and concern of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the international community as a whole,

Noting with appreciation the two reports of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

Recalling resolution XIII adopted unanimously at the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, held at Istanbul in 1969, concerning the reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts,

Welcoming the decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross to convene at Geneva, from 24 May to 12 June 1971, a conference on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts, to be attended by government experts,

Believing that one or more plenipotentiary diplomatic conferences of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and other interested States might be convened at an appropriate time, after due preparation, in order to adopt international legal instruments for the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law applicable to armed conflict,

Considering that the effective implementation of humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts can best be attained if those rules are laid down in widely accepted agreements,

Emphasizing the importance of continued close collaboration between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross,

1. Calls upon all parties to any armed conflict to observe the rules laid down in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts, and invites those States which have not yet done so to adhere to those Conventions ;

2. Expresses the hope that the conference of government experts to be convened in 1971 by the International Committee of the Red Cross

MISCELLANEOUS

will consider further what development is required in existing humanitarian laws applicable to armed conflicts and that it will make specific recommendations in this respect for consideration by Governments ;

3. Requests the Secretary-General :

(a) To invite early comments by Governments on his reports ;

(b) To transmit his reports and the comments of Governments thereon, together with the records of relevant discussions and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration, as appropriate, by the conference of government experts ;

(c) To present the comments received to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session and to report at that session on the results of the conference of government experts to be convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross and on any other relevant developments ;

4. Decides to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at the twenty-sixth session.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be “*Inter arma caritas*”.

ART. 4. — The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term “*National Red Cross Societies*” includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

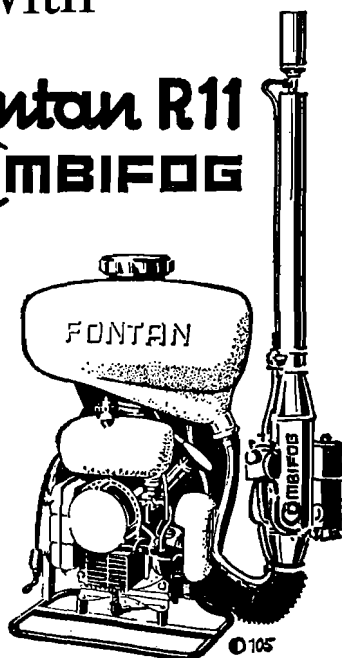
ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.

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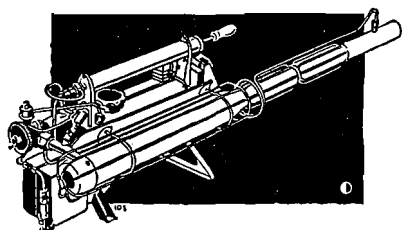
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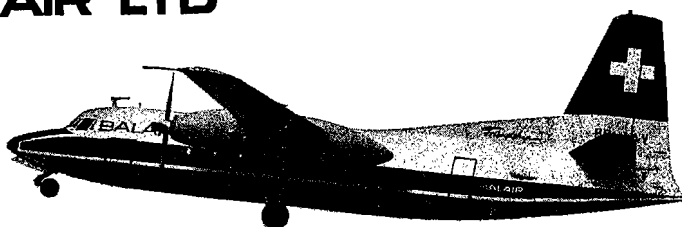


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ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 12 zc/86, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street, East, *Toronto 284* (Ontario).
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 41, Avenue Valcke P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin Bauchart, *Paris* (8^e).
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.^a Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Øldugøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KHMER REPUBLIC — Cambodian Red Cross, 17, Vithei Croix-Rouge cambodgienne, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Corner of Tubman boulevard and 9th Street Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 234, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR** — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Box 247, *Blantyre*.
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional, n° 1032, *Mexico* 10, D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureshwar, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington* C.2.
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste, 305, *Managua*, D.N.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off. St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Dr Dawood Pota Road, *Karachi* 4.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Jiron Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila* D-406.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon* 3.
- RUMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Rumania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box. 937, *Mogadiscio*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726 *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*, 10.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, 10440, *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse, 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIA** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanganyika Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC** — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6 D.C.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow* W-36.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R. W. 1, Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.